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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,775	03/28/2006	**Shunpei Yamazaki**	740756-2941	5479

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EXAMINER	
STAHL, MICHAEL J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2874	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/27/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/573,775	YAMAZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MICHAEL STAHL	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *1* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 July 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-66* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) *1-66* are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Restriction

REQUIREMENT FOR UNITY OF INVENTION

As provided in 37 CFR 1.475(a), a national stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention"). Where a group of inventions is claimed in a national stage application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternatives within a single claim. See 37 CFR 1.475(e).

When Claims Are Directed to Multiple Categories of Inventions:

As provided in 37 CFR 1.475(b), a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories:

(1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or

(2) A product and process of use of said product; or

(3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or

(4) A process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or

(5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process.

Otherwise, unity of invention might not be present. See 37 CFR 1.475(c).

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention (i.e., one of the following "groups") to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I: claims 1, 6, and 11
Group II: claim 2
Group III: claim 3
Group IV: claims 4, 8, and 10
Group V: claim 5
Group VI: claims 7 and 9
(each of groups I-VI is drawn to a thin film transistor (TFT))

Group VII: claims 12 and 15
Group VIII: claim 13
Group IX: claim 14
(each of groups VII-IX is drawn to a display device)

Group X: claims 16 and 19
Group XI: claim 17
Group XII: claim 18
(each of groups X-XII is drawn to a television)

Group XIII: claims 20, 23-27, 31, and 34
Group XIV: claim 21
Group XV: claim 22
Group XVI: claims 28 and 32
Group XVII: claim 29
Group XVII: claims 30 and 33
(each of groups XIII-XVIII is drawn to a method for manufacturing a TFT)

Group XIX: claims 35 and 38-40
Group XX: claim 36
Group XXI: claim 37
(each of groups XIX-XXI is drawn to a method for manufacturing a display device)

Group XXII: claims 41 and 44
Group XXIII: claim 42
Group XXIV: claim 43
(each of groups XXII-XXIV is drawn to a method for manufacturing a television)

Group XXV: claims 45, 51, 53, and 55
Group XXVI: claim 46
Group XXVII: claims 47, 52, and 54
Group XXVIII: claim 48
Group XXIX: claim 49
Group XXX: claim 50
(each of groups XXV-XXX is drawn to a liquid crystal display device)

Group XXXI: claims 56, 58, 60, and 62-66
Group XXXII: claims 57, 59, and 61
(each of groups XXXI and XXXII is drawn to a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal display device)

The inventions listed as Groups I-XXXII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The formation of a conductor in a depression of an insulating layer is regarded as the technical feature common to all the Groups. However, this does not qualify as a "special technical feature" because it does not define a contribution over the art as evidenced at least by WO 2002/067335 A1 and JP 3-159174 A (these references and the corresponding Written Opinion are in the information disclosure statement filed 3/28/2006). Accordingly there is no "special technical feature" which links all the Groups.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

Note that there are 32 groups listed above. Again, applicant is required to elect one of those groups for examination.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Response to Election

The reply filed 7/15/2009 elected groups XIII-XVIII. It appears that the restriction requirement made in the last action was not clear enough. The requirement was for election of only one group; several groups were listed together to save space as opposed to writing each of the 32 groups on a new line. The present restriction requirement is revised to place each group on a separate line in the interest of clarity.

Since this is an application under 35 U.S.C. 371, it is governed by "unity of invention" standards rather than normal U.S. restriction standards. A continuation of this application under 35 U.S.C. 120 would be controlled by U.S. restriction standards. See MPEP 1893.03(d): "Examiners are reminded that unity of invention (not restriction practice pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141 -1.146) is applicable in international applications (both Chapter I and II) and in national stage applications submitted under 35 U.S.C. 371. Restriction practice in accordance with 37 CFR 1.141-1.146 continues to apply to U.S. national applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), even if the application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 and 365(c) to an earlier international application designating the United States or to an earlier U.S. national stage application submitted under 35 U.S.C. 371." Accordingly it appears that a continuation of this application, having the same claims, may not be susceptible to a 32-way restriction.

Conclusion

Inquiries about this letter may be directed to examiner Stahl at 571-272-2360. Inquiries of a general or clerical nature (e.g., a request for a missing form or paper, etc.) should be directed to the technical support staff supervisor at 571-272-1626. Official correspondence which is eligible for submission by facsimile and which pertains to this application may be faxed to 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Questions about the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mike Stahl/
Examiner, Art Unit 2874

October 25, 2009